CLAIMS

1. Method of redirecting a request for a web service in a data transmission network such a the Internet wherein, in response to a request forwarded by a host (10) of a client to a web service provider (24), this one provides a Web Service Definition Language (WSDL) file based upon a message exchange protocol such as Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) on a transport protocol such as HTTP;

said method being characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

forwarding a first request from the client to an old address of said web service 12),

responding to the client from the web service point associated with said old address by sending back a message wherein the header using said message exchange protocol contains the new address redirection of the requested web service (14), and

forwarding a second request from the client to the new address of said web service.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein said new address (redirection) of the requested web service (14) is logged by said host (10) to allow code changes in the client application in order to direct the future requests to the right address.

3. Method according to claim 2, wherein said message exchange protocol is SOAP and said redirection is a SOAP header tag "Redirect" included in the SOAP specification to ensure that all SOAP runtimes used by the clients and service providers will understand it.

4. System for redirecting a request for a web service in a data transmission network such as the Internet wherein a response to a request forwarded by a host (10) of a client to a web service provider (24), this one provides a Web Service Definition Language (WSDL) file based upon the Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) on a transport protocol such as HTTP;

said system being characterized in that it comprises

a checker (30) in the SOAP runtime of said service provider (24) being adapted to check whether a request forwarded from the SOAP runtime of a client to said service provider has to be redirected to a new point address and to provide the new point address to which the request must be forwarded, said new point address being provided in a SOAP response message forwarded from said service provider at the old point address to said SOAP runtime of the client, and

a checker in said SOAP runtime of the client adapted to check whether said SOAP response message contains the new point address and regenerate the same request and to forward it to said new point address (14).

5. System according to claim 4, further comprising a list of the outdated web services

(32) to which said checker (30) in the SOAP runtime (28) of the service provider has

access to check whether said request has to be redirected to a new point address.

6. System according to claim 4 or 5, wherein said new point address is provided in the

header of said SOAP response message.